

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ALASKA REGION SUPPLEMENT 05-2002
APPLICABLE TO NWSI 10-311
JANUARY 13, 2004***

***Operations and Services
Marine and Coastal Weather Services, NWSPD 10-3
Offshore, NAVTEX, and High Seas Marine Forecast Services, NWSI 10-311***

ALASKA NAVTEX SERVICES

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SUMMARY OF REVISIONS: This supplement supercedes Alaska Region Supplement 05-2002, "Alaska Offshore, NAVTEX, and High Seas Marine Forecast Services," dated January 7, 2003, filed with NWSI 10-311.

The following changes were made in this issuance:

1. Instructions for Alaska's Offshore Marine Forecasts were removed. Alaska Region offices follow the national procedural instructions for these products.
2. Instructions for Alaska's NAVTEX services were added.

The section numbers in this supplement refer to the section numbers in NWSI 10-311.

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| Signed by James Partain for | 1/9/04 |
| Laura K. Furgione | Date |
| Acting Regional Director | |

Alaska NAVTEX Services

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1. Purpose. The NAVTEX service procedures in the Alaska Region are described to augment the procedures in NWSI 10-311.

4. NAVTEX Forecasts.

4.1 Mission Connection. NAVTEX forecasts support the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The NAVTEX forecast is a text forecast issued to accommodate broadcast restrictions of the U.S. Coast Guard NAVTEX transmitters. NAVTEX forecasts provide forecast and warning information to mariners who travel on the oceanic waters adjacent to the U.S. and its territorial coastal waters, and serve customers who operate from the coastal waters to several hundred nautical miles from shore.

4.2 Issuance Guidelines. In Alaska, the coastal waters zones extend 100 nautical miles (nm) offshore, so the suite of Alaska NAVTEX products includes separate forecasts for both the coastal waters and offshore zones.

4.2.1 Creation Software. Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) should produce the NAVTEX product using software formatters requiring little or no post editing.

4.2.2 Issuance Criteria. Alaska NAVTEX forecasts should be produced as part of the twice daily marine package that includes Offshore Waters Forecasts (OFF) and the Coastal Waters Forecasts (CWF).

4.2.3 Issuance Time. Issuance times for the NAVTEX forecast will be the same as for the OFF and CWF. The NAVTEX forecast will be issued immediately following the OFF and CWF.

4.3 Technical Description. NAVTEX forecasts will follow the format and content described in this section.

4.3.2 Mass News Disseminator (MND) Heading. The NAVTEX Forecast MND Headings for Alaska are listed in the tables below.

The following NWS marine products are broadcast via the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Communications Station (COMMSTA) in Kodiak. Refer to NWSI 10-302, Section 4, NAVTEX Forecast Areas of Responsibility, for detailed descriptions of the areas.

| Product | Issuing Office |
|--|----------------|
| NAVTEX Forecast for the Eastern Gulf Coastal Waters | WFO Juneau |
| NAVTEX Forecast for the North Gulf Coast+Kodiak+Cook Inlet | WFO Anchorage |
| NAVTEX Forecast for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska | WFO Juneau |
| NAVTEX Forecast for the Western Gulf of Alaska | WFO Anchorage |

Table 1 – Products broadcast under the J identifier.

| Product | Issuing Office |
|---|----------------|
| NAVTEX Forecast for Southwest Alaska+Bristol Bay+the Alaska Peninsula Waters and the Aleutian Islands | WFO Anchorage |
| NAVTEX Forecast for the Western and Arctic Coastal Waters | WFO Fairbanks |
| NAVTEX Forecast for the South Central Bering Sea | WFO Anchorage |

Table 2 – Products broadcast under the X identifier.

4.3.3 Content. NAVTEX forecasts in Alaska are valid for the same geographic areas as the OFFs and CWFs; however, to accommodate the U.S. Coast Guard's broadcast restrictions, NAVTEX forecasts must be significantly shorter in length (89 lines or less). To accomplish this, the Alaska Region CWFs are modified into an unsegmented format before transmission. Also, NAVTEX CWF products cover only the first four forecast periods (day one and day two), although headlines may refer to significant conditions beyond day two. The NAVTEX versions of the OFF will be issued verbatim.

4.3.4 Synopsis. Since the synopses in the OFF products should be very similar to the synopses in the CWFs, the NAVTEX versions of the CWFs should not contain synopses.

Exception: Western and Arctic Coastal Waters NAVTEX product should contain a synopsis, because the synopsis issued for the South Central Bering Sea does not typically cover this area.

4.4 Format. To ensure proper dissemination of the NAVTEX CWF forecast, follow the format shown in Figure 1.

```
(WMO ID) (ISSUANCE DATE TIME)
(AWIPS ID)

NAVTEX MARINE FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY) (STATE)
(SCHEDULED ISSUANCE TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE)(DAY)(DATE)

...PLEASE REFER TO COASTAL WATERS FORECASTS (CWF) AVAILABLE
THROUGH NOAA WEATHER RADIO AND OTHER MEANS FOR DETAILED
COASTLINE FORECASTS...

.SYNOPSIS...(WFO Fairbanks only)

(FORECAST AREA[S])

...HEADLINE(S) (if necessary)...

.Period 1...
.Period 2...
.Period 3...
.Period 4...

(FORECAST AREA[S])

...HEADLINE(S) (if necessary)...

.Period 1...
.Period 2...
.Period 3...
.Period 4...

(etc....)
$$
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Figure 1 – Format for NAVTEX CWF forecast product.

APPENDIX - Example of a NWS Alaska NAVTEX Product

1. Example of a NAVTEX CWF Forecast.

NAVTEX MARINE FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JUNEAU ALASKA
400 AM AST WED DEC 10 2003

...PLEASE REFER TO COASTAL WATERS FORECASTS (CWF) AVAILABLE
THROUGH NOAA WEATHER RADIO AND OTHER MEANS FOR DETAILED
COASTLINE FORECASTS...

DIXON ENTRANCE TO CAPE DECISION-

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY THROUGH THU NIGHT...

.TODAY...SE WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 12 FT. RAIN.
.TONIGHT...S WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 14 FT. RAIN.
.THU...S WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 12 FT.
.THU NIGHT...SW WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 18 FT. SHOWERS.

CAPE DECISION TO CAPE EDGE CUMBE-

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY THROUGH TUE NIGHT...

.TODAY...SE WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 13 FT. RAIN.
.TONIGHT...SE WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 16 FT. RAIN.
.THU...S WINDS 25 KT. WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. SEAS 12 FT.
.THU NIGHT...SW WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 18 FT. SHOWERS.

CAPE EDGE CUMBE TO CAPE FAIRWEATHER-

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY THROUGH TUE NIGHT...

.TODAY...SE WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 14 FT. RAIN.
.TONIGHT...SE WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 16 FT. RAIN.
.THU...SE WINDS 25 KT. WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. SEAS 11 FT.
.THU NIGHT...S WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 17 FT. SHOWERS.

CAPE FAIRWEATHER TO ICY CAPE-

...GALE WARNING TODAY...

.TODAY...SE WINDS TO 35 KT. SEAS 14 FT. RAIN.
.TONIGHT...SE WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 16 FT. RAIN.
.THU...SE WINDS 30 KT. WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. SEAS 11 FT.
.THU NIGHT...S WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 14 FT. RAIN.

ICY CAPE TO CAPE SUCKLING-

...GALE WARNING TODAY...

.TODAY...SE WINDS 35 KT. SEAS 15 FT. RAIN.
.TONIGHT...SE WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 16 FT.
.THU...SE WINDS 30 KT. WITH GUSTS TO 40 KT. SEAS 11 FT.
.THU NIGHT...SE WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 14 FT. RAIN.

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